

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title of the invention with the following amended title:

**TITLE: METHOD FOR PHASED SEPARATION OF A SAUSAGE STRAND,
SEPARATING ELEMENT AND ASSEMBLY OF SEPARATING
ELEMENTS** ~~Method for phased separation of a sausage strand, separating
element and assembly of separating elements~~

Please add the following heading on page 1, at line 2:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following heading on page 1, at line 27:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following heading on page 4, at line 30:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please delete the paragraph on page 4 at lines 31 and 32:

Please add the following heading on page 5 at line 20:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the heading on page 8 of the claims, at line 1, as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: ~~Claims~~